

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MELBOU 00159 300416Z

63

ACTION SCS-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-07 ISO-00 H-02 /013 W
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P R 300139Z JAN 76
FM AMCONSUL MELBOURNE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3197
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY PRIORITY
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL SYDNEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MELBOURNE 0159

E O 11652 NA
TAGS PINS, PP, CASC, AEMR
SUBJ: AMERICAN CITIZENS ON BOUGAINVILLE

REF BRAND/SQUIRE TELECON JANUARY 29.

SUMMARY: INFO OBTAINED AS REQUESTED REF TELECON
INDICATES THERE MAY BE 34-40 AMCITS ON BOUGAINVILLE.
LARGEST GROUP ARE CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES (EST 8 PRIESTS,
15 NUNS); MOST OF REST ARE WITH COPPER COMPANY AND
CHURCH-SPONSORED SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS.

1. POST ECONOFF YESTERDAY (JAN 29) CALLED ON
MR FRANK ESPIE, CHAIRMAN OF BOUGAINVILLE COPPER LTD,
CRA SUBSIDIARY WHICH RUNS AND OPERATES PANGUNA MINE,
AT HIS MELBOURNE OFFICE TO REQUEST INFO ON AMCITS ON
BOUGAINVILLE, PER REF TELCON. ESPIE STATED THERE
ARE 3 AMCITS ON MINE STAFF AT PANGUNA, ONE OF WHOM HAS
WIFE WITH HIM.

2. FOR INFO ON MISSIONARIES AND OTHERS, ESPIE REFERRED
US TO PROFESSOR D. OLIVER, AMCIT AND RETIRED HARVARD
ANTHROPOLOGIST WHO DID SOCIOLOGICAL STUDIES ON ISLAND
FOR COMPANY. ECONOFF REACHED OLIVER BY PHONE AND OBTAINED
FOLLOWING:

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PAGE 02 MELBOU 00159 300416Z

A. UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII ANTHROPOLOGY STUDENT

MIKE HAMNETT AND WIFE (BOTH AMCITS) LIVING IN SMALL
NATIVE VILLAGE ON ISLAND "ON EXCELLENT TERMS WITH SECES-
SIONISTS."

B. OF APPROXIMATELY 70 CATHOLIC MISSIONARIES ON
ISLAND THERE MAY BE 23 AMCITS, IE EIGHT PRIESTS
(INCLUDING RETIRED BISHOP LEMAY) AND 15 NUNS.

C. THERE IS CHURCH-SPONSORED ORGANIZATION ON
ISLAND CALLED "SUMMER INSTITUTE OF LINGUISTICS" NOW CONDUCT-
ING COURSES FOR ACADEMICS AND MISSIONARIES. OLIVER THINKS
IT LIKELY 4 OR 5 PARTICIPANTS ARE AMCITS.

3. TALLYING PARAS 2 AND 3, WE ESTIMATE 34 AMCITS NOW
ON ISLAND; BOTH SOURCES INDICATED HOWEVER THAT TOTAL
COULD BE HIGHER, SO RANGE OF 34-40 IS PROBABLY SAFE
ESTIMATE.

4. PROFESSOR OLIVER WAS TO LEAVE CANBERRA FOR SYDNEY TODAY
(JAN 30). HE CAN BE REACHED THERE AT TEL 660-5025.
BRAND

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